

House District 2

Denton J. Denny Pearson, Democrat



OTHER:

I'm Sitka attorney Denny Pearson. I arrived in Sitka fresh from law school. My law degree is from University of Utah (1981). My undergraduate degrees are from University of Utah, economics, and Southern Oregon College, social science.

My wife Cheryl is Director of Kettleson Memorial Library. My stepdaughter, Alia Sorensen, attended Sitka schools and is a magazine editor.

I have broad experience: Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) - six years; Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Board - one year; Sitka Assembly - three years; Deputy Mayor - one term. I'm past President of both the Sitka Rotary and Chamber of Commerce. For 18 years I hosted "At the Hop", Raven Radio's oldies program. Affiliations: Allen Memorial Preservation Project, Sitka Trail Works, SAFV and AARP.

At age 53, I have both the experience and the vigor to provide dynamic leadership for District 2.

Denny Pearson: proud to be an Alaskan, working to preserve Alaska's heritages.

STATEMENT:

Alaska is facing financial disaster. We must bridge the fiscal gap; Alaska otherwise will be unable to solve its many other problems. Where's the Legislature? It's been all talk - little action.

Spending exceeds state revenue in part because Anchorage gets state support for many local services. Alaska's largest city doesn't fund itself solely with property taxes; all Alaskans help shoulder the burden. This tips the scales in Anchorage's favor as it competes for economic development, quality labor and private investment. The result is to Southeast's disadvantage.

An income tax doesn't benefit Southeast, but a graduated state sales tax can trim Anchorage's unfair advantage. Higher rates would apply where there's no local sales tax, such as Anchorage, with lower rates applying where sales taxes already exist. A graduated sales tax won't diminish present local revenues and will minimize the additional burden where sales taxes already exist (often an additional 1%, or less). However, it will tax Anchorage residents more on par with the state benefits they receive.

Other challenges?

- ¥ Education: outlying schools are shortchanged by state funding inadequately acknowledging high education costs outside Anchorage.
- ¥ Commercial fishing: securing Europe's Marine Stewardship Council seal for wild salmon was a good first step, now let's free ASMI to do targeted marketing.
- ¥ Subsistence: put a rural priority Constitutional Amendment to a statewide vote.
- ¥ Permanent Fund dividend: the Fund's protection and continued dividends must remain priorities.

Vote Denny Pearson, dynamic leadership for Southeast Alaska.